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News

For Immediate Release

September 13, 2005

Vermont's Soil Survey: It's on the Internet

*Colchester.....*Soil survey maps and data, mainstays for rural and urban citizens alike, are now just a mouse click away. The once familiar soil survey publications, free and available in most NRCS field offices, will slowly be phased out.

The soil survey helps identify the best way to protect soil and water quality through the use of conservation practices. Soil surveys also can identify which sites are suitable for a wide variety of land uses. They are used for selecting sites for development, road building, pipeline corridors, and waste disposal; for pollution control; for minimizing risks to human life and property; and for wildlife management, wetlands identification, and soil or water conservation.

(MORE)

According to Judy Doerner, state conservationist for USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the new Website, operated by NRCS, is available at <http://soils.usda.gov/survey> and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world.

“Soil surveys are the foundation for land conservation activities as well as private and commercial development,” said Ms. Doerner. “Posting soil survey information on the internet is one more step in our effort to make information more accessible to the citizens we serve.”

Soil survey data and maps have been posted for ten counties in Vermont. The remaining four counties, Chittenden, Essex, Orleans and Caledonia, have only soils data available.

“Making this information available on the web is a major achievement and will contribute to efficiency and customer service,” said Ms. Doerner. “This new delivery system adds convenience in obtaining soil information and maps, and allows us to keep the information current and always available.”

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